to look into the expansion of welfare measures and Growth of industrial management relations; and

(c) if so, what are the terms of reference of the Committee ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) Administration of the Cine Workers Welfare Fund Act, 1981 and other allied Acts have been transferred to the Ministry of Labour as the subject matter of these Acts basically relates to the functions assigned to the Ministry of Labour.

(b) and (c) The Central Advisory Committee which is of tripartite nature, has been constituted by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting under the Cine-Workers Welfare Fund Act, 1981. The Central Advisory Committee is to co-ordinate the work of the Advisory Committee and to advise the Central Government on any matter arising out of the administration of the Act.

Saudi ban on import of livestock and meat from India

577. SHRI VALAMPURI JOHN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Saudi Arabia has lifted the ban imposed on import of livestock and meat from India on account of foot and mouth diseases prevalent among animals; and

(b) if not, what steps Government have taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER) : (a) Kingdom of Saudi Arabia imposed a ban on import of Live Buffalo and Buffalo meat from India on account of prevalence of rinderpest disease in Indian cattle. The ban has not yet been lifted.

(b) Quarantine of Buffaloes for a period of 21 days has been made compulsory prior to their exports. During the period of quarantine the Buffaloes are vaccinated against rinderpest and foot and mouth disease. The animals are also tested for tuberculosis and brucellosis.

Pre-shipment quality control has been prescribed for export of meat. Every consignment is now subjected to laboratory tests to ensure bacteriological quality of meat. India had earlier been classified by the FAO as an area where "disease is much reduced but still exists" in regard to rinderpest. The matter was taken up with FAO and India has since been classified in the category "low sporadic occurrence confined to certain regions".

The measures taken by India have been brought to the notice of the Saudi authorities with a view to having the aban lifted. The matter was taken up during the recently concluded meeting of the Indo-Saudi Joint Commission held on 21st & 22nd April, 1986 and the Saudi side have agreed to consider the issue favourably.

Participation of industrial houses in TFAI's business shows

578. SHRI VALAMPURI JOHN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) what are the names of the Industrial Houses that participated in the business shows organised by the Trade Fair Authority of India during 1985-86 ; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to involve more industrial Houses in the programme of TFAI ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER) : (a) A statement is attached. [*See* Appendix CXXXVIII Annexure No. 13]

(b) It is proposed to take the following steps:—

(i) Simplification of procedures and formalities to facilitate participation in trade fairs;

(ii) Formulation of a long-term programme of participation in fairs abroad to enable the TFAI and individual participants to have more lead time to plan for fairs abroad; and

(iii) identification of specilised themes for the forthcoming India International Trade fair 1986 to make it more business-oriented.

Rise in prices of edible oils and vanaspati

579. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH : Will the Minister of FOOD ANS CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of edible oils and vanaspati have been sharply rising during the last one year and the centrally sponsored programmes for oilseeds development have been failing to arrest the rising trend of prices of all kind of edible oils; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what action is being contemplated in this regard. ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI AJIT PANJA) (a) and (b) There is a downward trend in the prices of edible oil during the last one year. There is, however, increase in the prices of vanaspati during the said period. This is due to incresae in the excise duty from 5% to 10% *ad-valorem* and also due to increase in the issue price of imported oils to Vanaspati units. Prices of some vegetable oils like rice oil, bran soyabean oil, cottonseed oil have, however, registered significant increase from March, 1986.

Clearance of bulk drugs

580. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the clearance of all bulk drugs has been stopped since February 8 last due to confusion created by the recent Budget proposals, particularly by the MODVAT Scheme;

(b) whether this has caused serious shortages of drugs in the market; and

(c) if so, what remedial steps are being taken by Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARY) :

(a) No such instance has come to the notice of the Government that the clearance of all bulk drugs has been stopped since the 8th February, 1986 due to confusion created by recent Budget proposals, particularly by the MODVAT Scheme. Incidentally, the MODVAT Scheme came into force only from the Ist March, 1986.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In the new Central Excise Tarriff, bulk drugs are classified as chemicals falling under Chapter 28 or 29 which are covered by the MODVAT Scheme. However, as these are also being used in the production of a number of drugs and medicines which are fully exempted from duty where the benefit of MODVAT is not avaible, bulk drugs covered by these Chapters have been wholly exempted from excise duty by a notification dated the 3rd April, 1986.